

DSS Testimony

7/24/12

Hi, my name is Claudette Pirruccio from New Britain, CT. I have a lot of things that I would like to say in a short period of time. I'm really kind of nervous, but I will do my best.

I'm disabled and been getting Social Security Disability and DSS services for over 10 years, nothing much has changed. I want to thank everyone from DSS that has helped me over all these years, it is very much appreciated!!

My belief is that the current DSS system is flawed in CT.

It took 6 months for me to get my Cash Asst. and Medicaid after my re-determination.

The re-determination paperwork was put in on time as instructed by DSS, by my case manager in person.

Myself, my case manager, and advocates had been in contact following all protocol of DSS. We went months with no answers and no contact, not being able to leave voice mails, etc.

On the day that my case manager got in contact with a DSS worker, she was told that all paperwork had been received, so there was no need for an Appt. at DSS. Still Nothing!!

So at that point...I had myself, two state agencies, and two state Reps. from New Britain trying to help me. We all even called the Commissioner of DSS in Hartford and left messages. Still Nothing!!

I called my state Rep. and told him how I was really getting really depressed over all this.

My State Rep. called or texted the Commissioner in Hartford. Within 1-2 hrs. after that, the

the head of DSS in NB had E-Mailed my case manager and stated that my Cash Asst. was just put in retroactive along with my Medicaid. I checked the next morning, and it was all in!! Thank You!!

This took 6 months!!

I have an idea on how to lower the high case loads of all DSS workers: During the normal re-determination period, allow people with disabilities that have been disabled for many years and obviously not getting off disability anytime soon,

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to not make people under these circumstances have to fill out and send in re-determination papers, and not having DSS workers waste their precious time and work on people that they should already know are going to still be disabled and low-income and still qualify for DSS services with not much changing. There really isn't a need to have these people fill out re-determination papers as often as maybe some other people.

If you really want to make sure that everything for these people are up to date, send a much shorter version of a re-determination paper to people who are disabled and have little changes, or just simply if there are no changes at all, have a place to check off no changes. There is no need in these people for long re-determination papers, or to have them as frequently as others.

Everybody wins!!!

I also have other ideas, but because of time restraints in saying this testimony, I am unable to include anything else.

I want to thank everyone for listening to my testimony! If there's any questions, I'd be glad to answer them.

Sincerely,

Claudette Pirruccio